

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNAKUMAR): (a) to (c). A Sainik School is opened on the specific request of a State Government/Union Territory Administration as the entire capital expenditure and a major portion of the recurring expenditure has to be met by it. No concrete proposal from any of the State Government/UT Administration is currently under the active consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Benefits to Foreign Companies due to changes in FERA

700. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the changes in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 announced by the Reserve Bank of India are more beneficial for foreign companies which will be entering India with an equity holding of 51 per cent under the new Industrial Policy as compared to the existing Indian companies where overseas equity holding is up to 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not offering equal concessions to all to companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Crisis faced by Handloom Weavers of Madhya Pradesh

701. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey about the problems being experienced by handloom weavers of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major problem experienced by the handloom weavers in the country including Madhya Pradesh is the high yarn prices. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and Co-operative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The spinning mills in the private sector have also been persuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at moderately reduced prices.

Export to Jordan

702. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main items being exported to Jordan;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Country by exporting those items during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase export to Jordan in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Bulk of Indian exports to Jordan consists of engineering goods, agricultural commodities like wheat, rice and tea.

(b) Rupee equivalent of foreign exchange earned by total exports made to Jordan during the last three years is as under:-

1988-89	Rs. 23.49 crores
1989-90	Rs. 15.75 crores
1990-91	Rs. 57.24 crores

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made to increase exports to Jordan. Steps taken in this direction include bilateral discussions at Govt. to Govt. level in Joint Trade Committee meetings, exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs, and counter trade deals.

New Rubber Policy

703. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced a new rubber policy; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Government has allowed export of 14,000 metric tonnes of

natural rubber consisting of 3,000 tonnes of centrifuged latex (dry rubber content), 5000 tonnes of ISNR - 20 grades of crumb rubber and 6000 tonnes of off-grade rubber (Other than RMA -4 and RMA- 5 grades) by private exporters, keeping in view the surplus availability and to arrest the decline in price.

The State Trading Corporation of India has also been allowed to export some rubber from its stock.

No export has, however, taken place so far.

Projects from H.P. Pending Clearance

704. SHRI D. D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and schemes submitted by Himachal Pradesh pending clearance with the Union Government;

(b) the present position in each case;

(c) the target date for their clearance; and

(d) whether these are likely to be included under Annual Plan for 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

(d) No indication about this can be given as the 8th Plan is yet to be finalised.